

APPROVED: Meeting No. 26-84

ATTEST: *Helen M. Heneghan*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

MEETING NO. 19-84

June 9, 1984

The Mayor and Council convened in work session on Saturday, June 9, 1984, at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland.

PRESENT

Mayor John R. Freeland

Councilman Steve Abrams

Councilman Douglas Duncan

Councilwoman Viola Hovsepian

Councilman John Tyner, II

The Mayor in the Chair.

In attendance: City Manager Larry Blick; Budget Officer James Keene

RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME SERVICE

Richard Montgomery High School - Lights

The Mayor and Council discussed the lighting of the football field at Richard Montgomery High School. The Mayor asked that the school board be told that the City would be willing to pay, with the Booster Club reimbursing the City for half of the price. Councilman Abrams asked about the use of mobile lights on permanent standards. Mr. Hayes said Seneca Valley uses these but they are not up to current standards. The Council agreed to put in \$65,000 and get reimbursed for half of the cost. They also asked that the offer to provide matching funds be made to the other two high schools in the City. Mr. Blick asked the Council if they would want a certain percentage of students to be Rockville residents. Councilman Abrams commented that this is not limited to lighting but should be for direct City benefit/purpose. Councilman Tyner agreed that "City purpose" is the key. Mayor Freeland said the City should develop a long-range plan and policy and the only criterion is that it be for a community purpose. Mr. Blick said a page would be added in the CIP for FY 85 only for \$65,000 for lighting of the football field.

North Rockville & Oak Ridge School Sites

North Rockville Jr. High - Mayor Freeland asked that a letter be sent to the County Executive explaining what transpired at the Mayor and Council meetings, and the outpouring of public interest; mention the nature of the site, and propose that the County take it off the market and the City would help maintain the area. If the County does not do this, ask for a delay of action for one year in order to try to work out other arrangements. Councilman Abrams asked if the City has to put money in the CIP in the event that the City has to purchase it. If so, he would not be opposed to the City purchasing the property for a limited purpose. Mr. Blick explained that to put in \$700,000 for this would mean having to move other projects out. He suggested working out a long-term lease. Councilman Tyner suggested the Mayor's letter identify this site as a nature conservancy. It is important to get the land deeded. The City can be responsible for the maintainance. Mayor Freeland stated the City should employ a long term lease and not use the taxpayer's money to purchase it now.

Oak Ridge School Site - A letter will be drafted stating that the City has no interest in buying this property.

Rockville United Church Property

The Council decided to put this issue on hold as per staff's recommendation. Councilman Tyner asked if it is logical that there should be a park site there. If so, what would it cost to maintain. Councilwoman Movsepien commented that there is no neighborhood playground in the area. It is the City's intention to have public or private funds pay for the recreation use on part of this site.

F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre

The Council asked that testimony be gathered as to the lack of scheduling time at Montgomery College. The question was asked how long would the "house" be closed for installation of a catwalk. Staff said 2 - 6 weeks. The price of the catwalk would be approximately \$70,000 and could be accomplished in the FY 86 CIP. The Mayor asked that the work be done now because of the safety hazard involved. Councilman Tyner asked that \$100,000 be put in both FY 85 & FY 86 because it may be hard to secure a State match and this action allows flexibility.

Dawson Farm Park

The description will need to be updated and money needs to be moved to FY 87.

Glenora Park Improvements

The Council made no changes.

Lincoln Park Recreation Area Improvements

\$30,000 was added to the Community Development fund (CD). All funds will come from CD funds which will be added to the operating budget.

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Lone Oak Park

\$13,000 was added to the Community Development (CD) fund. CD funds will be substituted for \$13,000 General Fund.

Civic Center Improvement

\$25,000 CD will be reflected in FY 86.

TRANSPORTATION

Chapman Avenue

The Mayor and Council pushed this back to FY 86 and will review it at that time.

Ritchie Parkway Sidewalk

FY 85 will not be changed. Page 53 will be omitted. \$84,100 will be added to the CIP.

Falls Road @ Ritchie Parkway

The Mayor and Council postponed this.

Satellite Parking Lots

The current emphasis is on traffic rather than parking. The City wants to encourage the use of Metro. Councilman Abrams mentioned that Rosslyn has limited parking and people there have adjusted. He said the City should consider HOV incentives. The Mayor asked that the City work with the County to do something like this. He suggests that the City put up some money as recognition of the importance to the community. Councilman Abrams suggested looking at covered bus stops. He said the City should encourage Metro to make the lot HOV3 and prohibit use by others. It was suggested that money be put in the operating budget under Mass Transportation for studies, leases, rentals, passes etc. and also for a comprehensive strategy. The Council agreed that \$15,000 be placed in the operating budget for planning purposes.

Maryland Avenue Traffic Control

The Mayor and Council had a general discussion about the signals along Maryland Avenue.

Mall Ramp Demolition

Councilwoman Hovsepian asked about the revised estimate on the cost for the Mall Ramp removal. This project will be deleted from the FY 85 CIP as this was handled at mid-year FY 84.

ENVIRONMENT

The Mayor and Council discussed the South Rockville SWM Line and agreed to add this project to the CIP.

Multi-Purpose Lake

Councilwoman Hovsepian commented that the description on this project needs to be re-worded depending upon changes which will take place as progress takes place on this site.

Rockcrest Park SWM Facility

The Council asked that this project not keep moving into out years. The Mayor and Council agreed to move it to FY 87.

Councilman Abrams asked to meet with the City Attorney in executive session and review options in regard to development on Rockville Pike - what things regularly can be done, etc. The City Manager said he will get more information on this to the Council.

OPERATING BUDGET

The Mayor and Council, after completing its review of the CIP, took up discussion of items on their decision list for possible addition to the City Manager's proposed budget. The following decisions were made and recommended as changes to the proposed budget:

Legislation and Citizen Participation

The Mayor and Council recommended adding \$300 to the operating budget for the Sister Cities Task Force to permit them to have new pictures taken of Rockville to send to Hanneberg.

Executive Management

Provided \$10,000 to the Historic District Commission to permit them to begin implementing their proposed action program. Recommended funding \$50,000 for a study of Rockville Pike and to begin the development of a plan for the entire Pike. They also added \$3,750 to permit the City to have three high school interns who are interested in local government.

Recreation and Leisure Time Services

Provided \$43,180 as an operating contribution to the Municipal Swim Center. Added \$11,000 to the \$6,000 that was already budgeted for STAR to provide a staff person and a centralized ticket office. Added \$6,500 in Park Maintenance funding to fill the College Gardens Pond. And, added \$5,000 for holiday lights in Courthouse Square, pending a staff analysis.

Transportation

Added \$15,000 for a study of Satellite Parking lots. \$1,500 was also added to provide an asphalt sidewalk near Ritchie Center, as part of the RMHS student recommendations resulting from the Student Government Day.

Human Needs

Recommended providing \$5,000 to the Manna Food Center. Provided \$6,000 to the Human Rights Commission of the \$11,000 they requested, dependent upon development of a prioritized plan.

Environment

Added \$16,500 to replace 150 crab apple trees and also instructed staff to replace up to 200 other crab apple trees under the regular tree replacement program, which was already included in the budget.

Health and Safety

Added \$2,600 for additional street lighting as recommended by the RMHS student participants in student government day. Also added \$5,000 for hiring a 6-month temporary warden as requested by the Animal Control Board.

As a result of these decisions, \$181,330 was recommended as additions to the City Manager's proposed budget. Because his budget already provided an excess of revenues over expenditures, however, only new revenues equivalent to \$.01 on the tax rate were necessary to fund these additions. There was some discussion as to whether or not \$.01 should be added back to the tax rate or whether surplus (or fund balance) should be used. The Mayor and Council decided to add \$.01 to the tax rate which still permitted a \$.01 reduction in the current rate. At the same time, they instructed staff to provide an analysis of fund balance and a review and recommendations on the Mayor and Council's fund balance policy prior to next year's Council budget worksessions.

Other changes and additions made to the budget were the new Community Development Fund and the CIP.

Community Development Fund

The Mayor and Council recommended that Community Development Funds replace the proposed General Fund contribution to two CIP projects as follows: Lincoln Park Recreation Area Improvements (\$30,000) and Lone Oak Park (\$13,000).

Also recommended for funding as Community Development Fund eligible were: \$26,300 to Victory Housing for start-up operating costs; \$10,000 to RSI as a match to their contribution towards enclosing the vestibule to the Senior Center; \$22,850 to RHA, with \$10,000 going towards a one-time major insect and rodent extermination effort, and \$12,850 for smoothsealing and re-stripping of the parking lots; \$50,000 for creation of a Local Development Corporation (LDC) with instructions to the Economic Development Council to come back with a

detailed plan before the entire funding would be released (\$10,000 would be provided at the outset); and \$30,000 for two projects from the Lincoln Park Neighborhood planning process - \$5,000 for additional street lighting on Frederick Avenue and \$25,000 for the addition of stairs to the Lincoln Park Avenue Overpass. There was some discussion on this last item and the Mayor and Council instructed staff that a study of the feasibility and practicability of adding stairs would have to be made before this project was finally approved.

CIP

The following changes were recommended to the CIP:

Richard Montgomery Lighting	- added \$65,000
Twinbrook Metro East Lot Berm	- added \$ 5,000
Ritchie Parkway Sidewalk	- added \$84,100
Mall Ramp removal	- deleted from FY 1985 since it was done in FY 1984
F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre	- provided \$100,000 for design and construction of a catwalk in FY 85; moved receipt of State Funding to FY 86.
South Rockville Sewer Improvements	- added \$114,000.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council in work session, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. to convene again on Monday, June 11, 1984, at 8:00 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor.